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PETROGRAPHY.

Weinschenk's "*Die Gesteinsbildenden Mineralien*"¹ affords the most satisfactory introduction to petrography that has yet appeared. Its first 47 pages are devoted to the physical and chemical methods employed in the separation of rock constituents and in the determination of the character of isolated mineral particles. The remainder of the volume describes briefly the principal rock-forming minerals as they appear under the microscope. In spite of the brevity of the treatment necessitated by the small size of the book nearly all the essential facts relating to the characteristics of the individual minerals are to be found in its pages. The reader is supposed to be already acquainted with the general principles of optics, so no space is devoted to this subject.

The special feature of the book is the collection of 18 plates, bound in two brochures and enclosed in a pocket from which they may be removed for ready reference. They contain summaries of the physical, chemical, optical and crystallographic characters of the minerals discussed in the text; a list of minerals classified according to their color, in thin sections, and their crystallographic habits; lists of those exhibiting optical anomalies, twinning structures, distinct cleavages, and of those whose powder reacts alkaline; and lists in which the minerals are arranged according to their magnetic strength, their solubilities, their fusibility, their density, their refracting indices, the strength of their double refraction, and their optical character. These tables are so well arranged and they embody such a mass of information in small compass that they will prove not only useful to younger students but also extremely valuable to those of maturer experience.

So far as the writer knows, the present volume is the only modern elementary treatise on the microscopical characters of rock-forming minerals that can safely be recommended to beginners in the study.

W. S. B.

¹ Weinschenk, Ernst. *Die Gesteinsbildenden Mineralien*. Freiburg, Herdersche Verlagshandlung, 1901. 146 pp., 100 figs., 18 tables.